



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

July 19, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman, House Subcommittee
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop, Subcommittee Chairman Huffman, and Subcommittee Ranking Member McClintock:

On April 9, 2019, Congresswoman Norton introduced H.R. 2185, the District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019, to add Washington, DC to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The bill would add Washington, DC to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP), which would help the District protect its coastal interests and economies—and those of the Federal government—invest in resilience, and respond individually and regionally to offshore threats and opportunities. I write in support of the bill and urge prompt consideration and approval of the legislation in your committee.

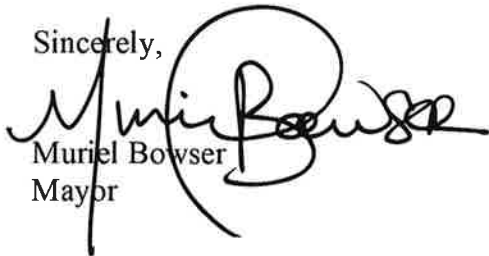
Although Washington, DC is located in the coastal plain, it is currently not included as a coastal jurisdiction under the CZMP. Currently, 30 states and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands participate in the program. Washington, DC should be included as well, because more than 70% of our city is located within the coastal plain and seven square miles of the District of Columbia are in the Anacostia and Potomac rivers, and other minor tributaries. Due to sea level rise, upstream sources of water, and the current state of infrastructure, Washington, DC and the Federal government could experience serious, future cleanup and repair costs due to flooding. Since 2006, there have been two storms greater than the

100-year classification in Washington, DC, and over the past decade, the General Services Administration estimates that it has spent in excess of \$40 million in repairs in response to flood damage. Due to increasing sea level rise, more than 1,300 acres of city and Federal property valued at over \$4 billion in Washington, DC could be subjected to future flood damage. This area includes some of our nation's most treasured landmarks such as the Jefferson Memorial and the White House.

Adding Washington, DC to the CZMP would allow us to develop our own local coastal zone management program. This would support the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act to preserve, protect, develop—and where possible—to restore or enhance the resources of our country's coastal zone. It would also help the District leverage local and federal resources to meet the mission of the CZMP. In addition, NOAA's Office of Coastal Management, which oversees the national program, could provide technical assistance to help Washington, DC plan and prepare for future flood damage.

Cities and states must utilize every resource to combat future environmental impacts from climate change, and by adding our jurisdiction to the CZMP, you will help ensure the District has every tool available. We enthusiastically endorse H.R. 2185, and again, I urge prompt passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end. It is positioned to the right of the printed name and title.

Muriel Bowser
Mayor